**Analysis of Skeletal Remains - Gender**

**GENDER**

There are several ways to more accurately determine the gender of a skeleton.  One of them is by examining the pelvis, which can be identified accurately 95% of the time.



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/forensics/11-forensic_anthropology/forensic_skeletons/human_african_female_pelvis.jpg | http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/forensics/11-forensic_anthropology/forensic_skeletons/human_asian_male_pelvis.jpg |
| **Circle the Appropriate Answer** |
| Angle > 90 degrees   or   < 90 degrees | Angle > 90 degrees   or   < 90 degrees |
| Sacrum Forward   or   Backward | Sacrum Forward   or   Backward |
| Pelvic Outlet Small   or   Large | Pelvic Outlet Small   or   Large |
| Ilia Close   or   Spread | Ilia Close   or   Spread |
| Female   or   Male | Female   or   Male |

Another way is to examine the skull.  This is still fairly accurate, but not as accurate as the pelvis.  Forensic anthropologists can accurately identify the skull somewhere between 85 and 90% of the times.  This can be complicated by several factors.  If a skull is incomplete, then, of course, there is less to work from.  Some of the distinguishing characteristics, such as larger bone landmarks for muscle attachments in males, can be easily confused with the landmarks of more athletic females.  To put it simply, since the landmarks are often for the attachment of muscles, the larger the muscles, or the more one uses the muscles, the larger the landmarks.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Landmarks** | Female | Male |
| **Chin** | Rounded  | Square |
| **Mastoid Process(Behind Ear)** | Small | Large |
| **External Occipital Protuberance(Back of Skull)** | Small(Not Prominent) | Large(Prominent) |
| **General Anatomy** | Gracile (i.e., Graceful) | Robust |
| **Forehead** | Vertical | Receding(Careful with the comments . . .) |
| **Brow Ridges(Location of Eyebrows)** | Slightly Developed | Prominent |
| **Muscle Lines** | Slightly Developed | Prominent |
| **Orbital Margins(Edge of Eye Socket)** | Sharp | Rounded |
| **Angle of Ascending Ramus(Back Corner of the Jaw)** | Obtuse | Close to 90 degrees |

Now try to identify the skulls below by gender:

Another way is to examine the skull.  This is still fairly accurate, but not as accurate as the pelvis.  Forensic anthropologists can accurately identify the skull somewhere between 85 and 90% of the times.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/forensics/11-forensic_anthropology/forensic_skeletons/european_male-www.boneclones.com.JPG | http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/forensics/11-forensic_anthropology/forensic_skeletons/european_female-www.boneclones.com.JPG |
| **Circle the Appropriate Answer** |
|  Chin **Rounded**   or   **Square** |  Chin **Rounded**   or   **Square** |
|  Occipital Protuberance **Small**  or   **Large** (back of skull) |  Occipital Protuberance **Small**   or   **Large** (back of skull) |
|  General Anatomy **Gracile**   or   **Robust** |  General Anatomy **Gracile**   or   **Robust** |
|  Forehead **Vertical**   or **Receding** |  Forehead **Vertical**   or   **Receding** |
|  Brow Ridges **Slight**   or   **Prominent** (location of eyebrows) |  Brow Ridges **Slight**   or   **Prominent**(location of eyebrows) |
|  Orbital Margins **Sharp**   or   **Rounded** (edge of eye socket) |  Orbital Margins **Sharp**   or   **Rounded** (edge of eye socket) |
|  Angle of Ramus **90 degrees**   or   **Obtuse** (back corner of jaw) |  Angle of Ramus **90 degrees** or   **Obtuse** (back corner of jaw) |
|  Gender **Female**   or   **Male** |  Gender **Female**  or   **Male** |

Now that you have had some practice, what about this lone skull?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/forensics/11-forensic_anthropology/forensic_skeletons/african_female-www.boneclones.com.JPG |

|  |
| --- |
| **Circle the Appropriate Answer** |
| Chin Rounded   or   Square |
| Mastoid Process Small   or   Large |
| Occipital Protuberance Small   or   Large |
| General Anatomy Gracile   or   Robust |
| Forehead Vertical   or   Receding |
| Brow Ridges Slight   or   Prominent |
| Muscle Lines Slight   or   Prominent |
| Orbital Margins Sharp   or   Rounded |
| Angle of Ramus 90 degrees   or   Obtuse |
|  |
| Gender Female   or   Male |
|  |

 |
| Original image from <http://www.boneclones.com> |